

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGUI 00680 211338Z

53

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

PC-01 EUR-12 MC-02 OPR-02 /073 W

----- 124043

R 201200Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5762

INFO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 0680

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CD, CT

SUBJECT: DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION

REF: BANGUI 0542 (NOTAL)

1. IN REFTEL WE POINTED OUT THAT DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION
IN CAR WAS TENSE, AND THAT EXAMPLE OF SUCCESSFUL COUP IN CHAD
WAS ONE ELEMENT. TENSION HAS CONTINUED SINCE AND MAY BE RISING.

2. BOKASSA, ILL WITH GOUT, HAS HOLED UP IN BOBANGUI AND SCARCELY
BEEN SEEN IN BANGUI SINCE HIS RETURN FROM EUROPE APRIL 29. EVEN
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' MEETINGS ARE HELD THERE.

3. PAY DAYS FOR GOVERNMENT WORKERS, INCLUDING MILITARY,
GENDARMES AND POLICE, ARE ALWAYS CRITICAL PERIOD IN BANGUI
AND FOR FIRST TIME IN LAST TWO YEARS SOME BANGUI CIVIL SERVANTS
HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED PAY THREE WEEKS LATE AND LESS THAN WEEK BEFORE
MAY PAY CHECKS ARE DUE. THERE IS COMMON BELIEF THAT BOKASSA FACES
REAL CRISIS IN TRYING TO SCRAPE UP MONEY FOR MAY SALARIES.

4. ON MAY 17 BOKASSA RELIEVED GENERAL ANDRE KOLINGBA, COMMANDER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGUI 00680 211338Z

OF THE CAR ARMY OF HIS DUTIES, LEAVING ONLY ONE ARMY GENERAL,

MAGALE. MEANWHILE HE HAS REPORTEDLY MOVED SOVIET ARMS TO HIS BOBANGUI FARM WHERE SOVIET MILITARY TECHNICIANS ARE TRAINING A SELECTED CORPS OF M'BAKAS IN THEIR USE. MORALE OF GENDARMERIE IS ALREADY LOW DUE TO ARREST THEIR CHIEF GENERAL. LINGOUPOU, LAST NOVEMBER AND NOW ARMY MORALE IS DECLINING MARKEDLY WITH ONE GENERAL RELIEVED AND NEW WEAPONS GOING TO ELITE CORPS FROM SINGLE TRIBE WHO RECEIVE HIGHER PAY.

5. THERE IS ALSO EVIDENCE OF DISSENSION AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL. FOR FIRST TIME SINCE MY ARRIVAL HERE NO MINISTERS CAME TO A NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION AT SAFARI. SINCE PROTOCOL HAD PROMISED CAMEROONIAN AMBASSADOR NGO EARLIER IN AFTERNOON THAT THERE WOULD BE GOOD TURN-OUT, REASON LIES IN SOME EXTERNAL CAUSE PREVENTING THEIR ATTENDANCE, REPORTEDLY HEATED COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING AT BOBANGUI. GOCAR CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE SCHEDULED TO BE OPENED BY BOKASSA MAY 20 WAS ALSO POSTPONED.

6. RUMORS WHICH HAVE APPEARED IN WAKE OF ABOVE, RANGE ALL THE WAY FROM AT ATTEMPT BY BOKASSA TO EFFECT MAJOR CABINET RESHUFFLE WHICH IS MEETING RESISTANCE TO MEASURES TO PREVENT POSSIBLE PENDING COUP ATTEMPT. ALL WE CAN BE SURE OF IS THAT SITUATION IS NOT NORMAL AND POLITICAL EVENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE MAY BE PENDING.

DALE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FINANCIAL CRISIS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGUI00680
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750180-0910
From: BANGUI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750533/aaaabdia.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BANGUI 0542
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2003 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION
TAGS: PINT, CD, CT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006